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A restriction requirement has been imposed upon the Applicant under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The Examiner has noted in the application three inventions, as follows: Invention I for claims 1-14; Invention II for claims 15-21; and Invention III for claims 22-25. Further, the Examiner has indicated 4 species, corresponding to respective Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6. Accordingly, the Applicants are required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits in the event that no generic claim is finally held allowable.

In response, the Applicants hereby elect Invention I, and the species corresponding to Fig. 3, for prosecution. The Applicants contend that all of claims 1-14 read on the elected species, and those claims are hereby elected for prosecution under 35 U.S.C. 121. Specifically, the Applicants note that Fig. 3 depicts an apparatus having seven springs. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11-13 do not recite any number of springs, and therefore Fig. 3 does not depict a limitation inconsistent with those claims. Further, claim 3 (and thus inherently claims 4-6 which depend therefrom) recites, "at least three springs." Fig. 3 does show "at least three springs." Further, as to claim 6, at least three springs can be identified in Fig. 3 that are "spaced substantially equiangularly about a central axis." Claim 8 includes the limitation of "at least three, and no more than nine, springs", and therefore the seven springs of Fig. 3 fit within this limitation. Claim 10 recites "a plurality of springs", and claim 14 recites "a plurality of coil springs", both of which are consistent with Fig. 3.

Claims 15-25 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

1 SUMMARY

2 The Applicants believe that the election of a single species as set forth herein
3 above constitutes a full and complete response to the Office action.

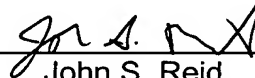
4 The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed
5 representative by telephone if the Examiner believes this will expedite prosecution of the
6 claims.

7
8 Respectfully submitted,

9 Dee HILLBERRY and Mark MORTIMORE

10 Date: July 23, 2004

11 By



John S. Reid

Attorney and agent for Applicants

Reg. No. 36,369

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